IN THE CLAIMS:

1–20. (Canceled).

21.   (Previously Presented) A method for maintaining a whois database, comprising:

extracting a plurality of unique identifiers from an audit file, each unique identifier corresponding to a modified or deleted domain name record within a registrar database; and

for each unique identifier:

determining whether a first domain name record that corresponds to the unique identifier exists within the registrar database,

if the first domain name record exists, retrieving the first domain name record from the registrar database,

determining whether a second domain name record that corresponds to the unique identifier exists within the whois database,

if the second domain name record exists, retrieving the second domain name record from the whois database,

comparing the first domain name record to the second domain name record, and

updating the second domain name record, within the whois database, based on the first domain name record.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

if the first domain name record does not exist, deleting the second domain name record from the whois database.

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23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

if the second domain name record does not exist, adding the first domain name record to

the whois database.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

discarding duplicate unique identifiers from the plurality of unique identifiers.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the modified or deleted domain

name record consists of an added domain name record, a deleted domain name record and a

changed domain name record.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the audit file includes an indicator

associated with each unique identifier, the indicator consisting of an added indicator, a deleted

indicator and changed indicator.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the audit file includes modified

domain name information associated with each unique identifier.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the plurality of unique identifiers

is associated with a time period.

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29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

tagging the audit file to identify previously extracted unique identifiers.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the whois database is a copy of the registrar database.

31. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium including instructions adapted to be executed by a processor to perform a method for maintaining a whois database, the method comprising:

extracting a plurality of unique identifiers from an audit file, each unique identifier corresponding to a modified or deleted domain name record within a registrar database; and

for each unique identifier:

determining whether a first domain name record that corresponds to the unique identifier exists within the registrar database,

if the first domain name record exists, retrieving the first domain name record from the registrar database,

determining whether a second domain name record that corresponds to the unique identifier exists within the whois database,

if the second domain name record exists, retrieving the second domain name record from the whois database,

comparing the first domain name record to the second domain name record, and

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updating the second domain name record, within the whois database, based on the first domain name record.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises:

if the first domain name record does not exist, deleting the second domain name record from the whois database.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises:

if the second domain name record does not exist, adding the first domain name record to the whois database.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises:

discarding duplicate unique identifiers from the plurality of unique identifiers.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the modified or deleted domain name record consists of an added domain name record, a deleted domain name record and a changed domain name record.

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36. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the audit file includes an indicator associated with each unique identifier, the indicator consisting of an added indicator, a deleted indicator and changed indicator.

37. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the audit file includes modified domain name information associated with each unique identifier.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the plurality of unique identifiers is associated with a time period.

39. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises:

tagging the audit file to identify previously extracted unique identifiers.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the whois database is a copy of the registrar database.

41. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a network;

a registrar computer, coupled to the network, including a registrar database having a plurality of domain name records and an audit file having a plurality of unique identifiers, each

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unique identifier corresponding to a modified or deleted domain name record within the registrar database; and

a whois computer, coupled to the network, including a processor and a memory coupled to the processor, the memory including a whois database having a plurality of domain name records and instructions adapted to be executed by the processor to perform a method, the method comprising:

extracting the plurality of unique identifiers from the audit file; and

for each unique identifier:

determining whether a first domain name record that corresponds to the unique identifier exists within the registrar database,

if the first domain name record exists, retrieving the first domain name record from the registrar database,

determining whether a second domain name record that corresponds to the unique identifier exists within the whois database,

if the second domain name record exists, retrieving the second domain name record from the whois database,

comparing the first domain name record to the second domain name record, and

updating the second domain name record, within the whois database, based on the first domain name record.

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42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises:

if the first domain name record does not exist, deleting the second domain name record

from the whois database.

43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises:

if the second domain name record does not exist, adding the first domain name record to

the whois database.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises:

discarding duplicate unique identifiers from the plurality of unique identifiers.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the modified or deleted_domain

name record consists of an added domain name record, a deleted domain name record and a

changed domain name record.

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the audit file includes an indicator

associated with each unique identifier, the indicator consisting of an added indicator, a deleted

indicator and changed indicator.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises,

wherein the audit file includes modified domain name information associated with each

unique identifier.

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48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises,

wherein the plurality of unique identifiers is associated with a time period.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises:

tagging the audit file to identify previously extracted unique identifiers.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the whois database is a copy of the

registrar database.